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NEITHER GUATEMALA CITY NOR [REDACTED] HAD AS OF 10 MAY ANY NEW DEVELOPMENTS TO REPORT ON THE DISAPPEARANCE OF GRIFFITH ((DAVIS)) AND NICHOLAS ((BLAKE)). [REDACTED] HOWEVER, ON 30 APRIL CARLOS ((AVILES)), A FRIEND OF BLAKE AND OWNER OF A SMALL HOTEL IN ANTIGUA, REPORTED THAT HE HAD RECEIVED THROUGH THE GUATEMALAN POSTAL SYSTEM A CARD FROM BLAKE STATING HE WAS ALIVE AND WELL. ALTHOUGH AVILES CLAIMS THE CARD WAS LEGITIMATE BECAUSE OF A WORD USED WHICH WAS KNOWN ONLY TO BLAKE AND AVILES, THE LATTER DID NOT SHOW THE CARD TO EMBASSY OFFICERS AS HE WAS ASKED TO DO. ON 2 MAY, A PRIVATE INVESTIGATOR HIRED BY THE FAMILIES OF THE MISSING PERSONS REPORTED THAT AVILES HAD "BURNED" THE CARD FOR UNSPECIFIED REASONS. THE PRIVATE INVESTIGATOR ALSO STATED THAT HE WAS 99 CERTAIN THAT BOTH AMERICANS WERE BEING HELD BY A GUATEMALAN INSURGENT ORGANIZATION.

BOTH BLAKE AND DAVIS WERE LAST SEEN ON 29 OR 30 MARCH IN THE VILLAGE OF LLANO, EL QUICHE, NEAR THE DEPARTMENT OF HUEHUETENANGO IN THE WESTERN HIGHLANDS. DESPITE WARNINGS FROM THE LOCAL ARMY DETACHMENT COMMANDER THAT THERE WERE GUERRILLA ARMY OF THE POOR (EGP) GUERRILLA UNITS IN THE AREA, BLAKE AND DAVIS DECIDED TO CONTINUE ON THEIR OWN AND ON FOOT TO SALQUIL USING A ROUTE THAT IS NOT NORMALLY PATROLLED BY THE ARMY. THERE HAS BEEN NO KNOWN CONTACT WITH THEM SINCE.

ON 27 APRIL, THE COMMANDER OF MILITARY ZONE 20 (EL QUICHE), [REDACTED] MET WITH RELATIVES OF THE MISSING AMERICANS. AFTER BRIEFING THOSE PRESENT, INCLUDING AN EMBASSY OFFICER, [REDACTED] STATED THAT IN HIS VIEW BLAKE AND DAVIS HAD MADE THE MISTAKE OF BELIEVING THAT THE (EGP) WAS LIKE THE GUERRILLAS OF EL SALVADOR. [REDACTED] POINTED OUT THAT THE EGP UNITS IN HIS AREA CONSIST MOSTLY OF INDIANS WHO DO NOT SPEAK SPANISH. DO NOT SEE THE IMPORTANCE OF THE PRESS TO THEIR CAUSE AND HAVE BEEN INDOCTRINATED TO

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BELIEVE THAT ALL FOREIGNERS ARE WITTING COLLABORATORS OF THE GUATEMALAN GOVERNMENT. MOREOVER, [REDACTED] UNDERLINED THE FACT THAT THESE EGP UNITS WOULD KILL FOR A CAMERA OR EVEN A PAIR OF PANTS. FINALLY, [REDACTED] REMARKED THAT UNFORTUNATELY HE BELIEVED THE FATE OF THE MISSING AMERICANS HAD PROBABLY BEEN DECIDED ON THE SPOT BY THE LOCAL EGP UNIT COMMANDER.

[REDACTED]

REPORTED THAT DESPITE PERSISTENT EFFORTS ON THE PART OF ARMY UNITS UNDER HIS COMMAND TO LOCATE THE TWO AMERICANS, NO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION HAD BEEN ACQUIRED ON THEIR WHEREABOUTS.

[REDACTED] AT THIS POINT WE ARE INCLINED TO SHARE [REDACTED] VIEWS, AS STATED [REDACTED] ABOVE, ON THE FATE OF BLAKE AND DAVIS. THE EGP IS A HARD-CORE GUERRILLA ORGANIZATION WHOSE LEADERSHIP IS DIVIDED AND APPEARS TO BE LOSING, ACCORDING TO ARMY REPORTS, THE SUPPORT FROM THE LOCAL POPULACE THAT IT ONCE ENJOYED. UNDER PRESSURE FROM THE GUATEMALAN ARMY, THE EGP UNITS IN EL QUICHE ARE CONSTANTLY ON THE MOVE AND REPORTEDLY LACK A SOLID LOGISTICS INFRASTRUCTURE AT THE LOCAL LEVEL. IT THEREFORE FOLLOWS THAT WITHOUT GOOD COMMAND AND CONTROL COMMUNICATIONS WITH HIGHER HQS, AND PRESSED FOR TIME, THE LOCAL EGP UNIT COMMANDER MOST LIKELY DECIDED THEN AND THERE THE FATE OF THE TWO AMERICANS AS [REDACTED] BELIEVES.

[REDACTED] NEITHER [REDACTED] THE GUATEMALAN ARMY NOR THE [REDACTED] EMBASSY HAVE BEEN ABLE TO ESTABLISH SO FAR A RELIABLE NEW LEAD THAT WOULD SHED SOME LIGHT ONTO THE CURRENT WHEREABOUTS OF BLAKE AND DAVIS. THERE STILL REMAINS THE POSSIBILITY, HOWEVER REMOTE, THAT THEY MAY BE ALIVE IN EGP HANDS. BUT WE JUST DO NOT KNOW AT THIS TIME. HQS MAY ASSURE BROTHER OF MISSING AMERICAN THAT STATION WILL CONTINUE TO PRESS [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] UNTIL SUCH TIME AS THIS CASE IS CLARIFIED BEYOND REASONABLE DOUBT. WE WILL ADVISE HQS IMMEDIATELY SHOULD FURTHER RELIABLE INFORMATION REACH OUR HANDS.

[REDACTED]